

BREAST CANCER IN GHANA, THE NEED FOR SERIOUS RESEARCH

Debora Boateng

September 15, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer is rapidly becoming a growing public health problem in Sub Sahara Africa and has the highest mortality among women . Late stage presentation is a huge challenge.



BACKGROUND

According to GLOBOCAN, in 2012, it was estimated that 2260 women were newly diagnosed with breast cancer, and out of it 1021 died in Ghana. Breast cancer accounts for 15% of all malignancies in Ghana and it is estimated that the majority of the cases are between the ages of 35-50 years (premenopausal).

OBJECTIVE

The key role that a well-resourced bio bank will play in augmenting research into the high incidence of breast cancer in women especially in premenopausal women.

METHODOLOGY

Women with suspicious breast lumps were recruited at the Peace and Love Hospital in the years 2014 and 2015. Tissue samples were collected from the participants using the core biopsy procedure.

PEACE AND LOVE HOSPITAL

Office of the Breast Care International



DATA

Total number of participants recruited during 2014 and 2015 = 378

Total number of participants below the age 50 = 215

Total number of participants above the age 50 = 163

Percentage of participants below the age 50 = 56.88%

Percentage of participants above the age 50 = 43.12%

CONCLUSION

Since the majority of the patients are young, it affects a lot of the work force and is a matter of public health concern. Again bio bank could give the opportunity to research into the subtypes and generate interventions to reduce late stage presentations and reduce the high mortality rate. Creating awareness about the disease as is being done by BCI is one tried and tested means by which women could examine their breasts and go for early diagnosis.

BCI ON OUTREACH PROGRAM



THANK YOU